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Dated: May 18, 2004

Signature:

*Richard B. Hoffman*  
(Richard B. Hoffman)

1 725  
JFW  
Docket No.: 30151/38183  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Bernd Lohmuller et al.

Application No.: 10/069,302

Art Unit: 1725

Filed: May 10, 2002

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: ANNEALING PLANT

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action mailed February 18, 2004, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.